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24 NOV 16 1999 MS. WESTIN: Thanks for inviting us. My
25 name is Michelle Westin. I'm an environmental

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1 activist, have been for the last 11 years. I'm here to
2 speak on somewhat of an emotional level.

3 I encourage those proponents of the Yucca
4 Mountain project and those drafting the EIS plan not to
5 negate the emotional content of American citizens who
6 are indeed nervous and scared about nuclear waste.

7 I want to make another comment on that
8 about emotional (sic), the ramification of the legal
9 actions of this, destroying treaty rights, blowing
10 holes through the First Amendment of our Constitution,
11 I haven't heard very many people speak about the
12 exercise of religions.

2... 13 | I want to remind the folks Yucca Mountain
14 is a sacred mountain to the Paiute Nation as well as
15 the Shoshone nation. Excuse me, I'm a little bit
16 nervous. This is equivalent to, you know, burying
17 nuclear waste under the Vatican. How do you think
18 people would feel about that?

19 Native American groups and anyone who
20 worships in any church around the country is at risk
21 here when we see our First Amendment issues, our First
22 Amendment destroyed by things like this.

23 So I just want to remind you that -- not
24 | to negate the emotions of American citizens when it
25 | comes to our health and safety and ability to worship.

3 1 Also, [with the treaty rights, people are
2 emotional about that. When we lose our land time after
3 time, again it's -- let's see. Well, it destroys
4 credibility of the American public in our legislature,
5 in our scientists, in the communities we are looking to
6 for answers. And it also destroys international trust
7 with the American government as being able to, you
8 know -- not just taking other people's lands away.]

4 9 And just to balance that with science, [the
10 comfort and safety zone of the American population is
11 just as important as any scientific reasons for doing
12 or not doing anything. A lot of scientific endeavors
13 have been to benefit humankind to make us more
14 comfortable, to make us more safe. Emotions should not
15 be thrown away for science.]

16 In comparison -- and forgive me, ladies
17 here, right here at the hearing today, and with all due
18 respect to all of the scientists with our educational
1... 19 experience and background, [some of the science is
20 bullshit. If you think Yucca Mountain is safe
21 eternally with all those fissures, faults, earthquakes,
22 whatever, or if you think that nuclear energy is the
23 safest energy source that we have scientifically
24 available in this country, I think you're crazy. We
25 all know we've got solar power, wind power.

...1 1 Other than Texas where there are cancer
2 clusters due to -- well, I can't officially say what
3 that's due to, but I know we do have cancer clusters
4 down there. We've got more wind power potential for
5 five times the potential that Texas could use.

6 I'm sure Colorado has a great amount of
7 potential for solar power.

8 I want to make emphatic my recommendation
9 as a citizen, as a passionate activist for my people
10 and my land that you look into the viable alternatives,
11 that is, solar power and wind power. Until we can find
12 a safe place for nuclear energy or for nuclear waste to
13 store, and until you can prove that it is safe to
14 store, we don't need to be using it.

...2 15 If you're not sure how safe it is, or if
16 you're sure it is safe, I would not suggest that you
17 put it in the basement of your own church. I would
18 never suggest that, but do not put it in the basement
19 of the church of the Paiute or Shoshone Nation. If you
20 think it is safe, put it in the basement of your own
21 house. Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much.

23 Any other comments?

24 MR. GALE: Thanks for the opportunity.

25 MR. BROWN: If you can identify yourself.